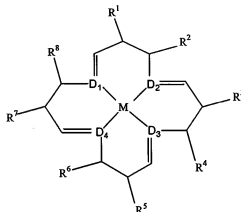


Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Abstract with the following Abstract:

ABSTRACT

A food spoilage sensor comprising a macrocyclic transition metal complex of the general formula



wherein M is a transition metal ion; D₁, D₂, D₃ and D₄ can be the same or different and can be N or P; R¹ and R², R³ and R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶, and R⁷ and R⁸ can be the same or different and form, taken together with the adjacent carbon atoms to which they are bonded and joined together, an aromatic or a cyclic group with at least one of the aromatic or cyclic groups possessing one or more polymerizable moieties is provided. The complex selectively binds biogenic amines, such as cadaverine, putrescine and histamine, which are released by food spoilage microorganisms and. The sensor undergoes a detectable color change upon exposure thereto, to biogenic amine, thus indicating that food spoilage has probably occurred. In one embodiment, a polymer containing the macrocyclic transition metal complex is molecularly imprinted with the biogenic amine to impart selective binding affinity such that upon exposure to biogenic amine, a color change is detected.